

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANTIA 03149 042227Z

61

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 SP-01 INR-10 L-02 SCA-01 SCS-01

SAM-01 DRC-01 RSC-01 /043 W
----- 016586

P 042043Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8837

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3149

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SOCI

SUBJ: MORE ON HOLY CROSS FATHERS

REF: STATE 113905

1. SUMMARY. HOLY CROSS FATHER PLASKER PLANS TO LEAVE CHILE MID-JUNE FOR TWO MONTHS OF TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF COUNTRY. NO FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARDS RESOLUTION OF ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM AND CARDINAL HAS REAFFIRMED TO AMB HIS INTENTION TO CONCENTRATE HIS EFFORTS ON HAVING GOC RETURN SCHOOL TO HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION WITHOUT CONTESTING GOVT STRICTURES THAT PRIESTS SHOULD NOT ENGAGE IN OR ADVOCATE PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES. HOLY CROSS PRIEST GARATE AND DEACON DIEGO IRRARAZAVAL UNDER NUNCIO'S PROTECTION AND WANT TO G TO US. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER NUMEROUS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT HOLY CROSS FATHER ROBERT PLASKER, MEETING WITH EMBOFF TOOK PLACE JUNE 2 IN WHICH PLASKER STATED THAT HE HAS DECIDED TO LEAVE CHILE ON JUNE 15 TO ATTEND TO CONGREGATION BUSINESS ELSEWHERE IN LATIN AMERICA AND TO PARTICIPATE IN WORLDWIDE MEETING OF ORDER IN MONTREAL. HE PLANS TO RETURN TO CHILE IN LATE AUGUST. IN HIS ABSENCE HOLY CROSS FATHER PHILIP DEVLIN WHO ALSO SPOKE WITH EMBOFF WILL BE IN CHARGE OF CONGREGATION BUSINESS IN SANTIAGO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANTIA 03149 042227Z

3. PLASKER REPORTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER REAL MOVEMENT ON ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM. SCHEDULED MEETING BETWEEN CHILEAN LAWYER IGNACIO WALKER, NOW REPRESENTING CONGREGATION, AND MIN EDUCATION CASTRO FOR MAY 28 HAD FALLEN THROUGH AFTER CASTRO ACCUSED WALKER OF HAVING ARRIVED FOR THE MEETING A DAY LATE.

4. EMBOFF TOLD PLASKER THAT AMBASSADOR HAD MET WITH CASTRO RECENTLY TO IMPRESS UPON HIM ONCE AGAIN DEPTH OF USG CONCERN OVER ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL ISSUE AND OUR DESIRE THAT PROBLEMS BE RESOLVED AMICABLY IN NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ORDER AND GOC. EMBOFF ALSO OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS PROPOSAL SUGGESTED BY MIN EDUCATION CASTRO (SANTIAGO 2605) FOR PHASED RETURN OF SCHOOL OVER SEVERAL YEAR PERIOD TO HOLY CROSS ORDER.

5. PLASKER STATED THAT HE VIEWED PROPOSAL AS "BEST WE COULD HOPE FOR" AND INDICATED THAT HE WOULD URGE CONGREGATION TO ACCEPT IT IF IT IS EVER OFFERED IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS BY GOC. HE STATED THAT IMPORTANT CONCERN FOR HIM WAS THAT CONGREGATION AND GOC AVOID SUBSIDIARY ISSUES OF "PRINCIPLES" WHICH HAVE HIGH EMOTIONAL CONTENT, SUCH AS WHAT PRIESTS MAY TEACH AT SCHOOL, ETC., IN WORKING OUT INITIAL RESOLUTION.

6. PLASKER LARGELY REPEATED TO EMBOFF WHAT LUERS HAD TOLD DEPT ON MAY 28 CONCERNING CHILEAN HOLY CROSS PRIESTS, E.G. NONE ARE CURRENTLY IN JAIL AND SOME HAVE RECEIVED PROTECTION OF CHURCH AND ARE PLANNING TO GO TO U.S.

7. PLASKER MAINTAINED THAT PRIESTS ARE INNOCENT OF ANY WRONG DOING AND THAT THEIR PROBLEMS ARE PART OF LARGER CHURCH-GOC TENSIONS. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THAT HE HAD NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT PRIESTS HAD BEEN HELPING UP AND MIR SYMPATHIZERS BY HIDING THEM AND OTHERWISE PROTECTING THEM FROM GOC AUTHORITIES, AND FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE COULD UNDERSTAND HOW GOC MIGHT VIEW THIS AS CONSTITUTING ILLEGAL AID TO ENEMIES.

8. COMMENT. PAPAL NUNCIO TOLD AMBASSADOR EVENING JUNE 3 THAT PRIEST MARTIN GARATE AND DEACON DIEGO IRRARAZAVAL CURRENTLY RESIDING WITH HIM AND PREPARING TO GO TO US. EMBOFF SPOKE TO HOLY CROSS FATHER FERMIN DONOSO MORNING JUNE 4 URGING HIM, AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIAGO 03149 042227Z

HE HAD DONE WITH PLASKER, TO CONTACT US CONSUL TO BEGIN NECESSARY PAPERWORK. EMBOFF POINTED OUT ONCE AGAIN THAT THERE IS DISTINCTION IN U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW BETWEEN AN ORDAINED MINISTER OF RELIGION SUCH AS PRIEST AND AN INDIVIDUAL FUNCTIONING AS NON-ORDAINED DEACON AND THAT THIS DISTINCTION MAY HAVE SIGNIFICANCE IN THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS.

9. REGARDING ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL PROBLEM, CARDINAL SILVA

TOLD AMBASSADOR JUNE 2 THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF CONTESTING
GOVT ACTION TO ENSURE THAT PRIESTS DO NOT ENGAGE IN OR ADVOCATE
PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES, AND THAT HE WILL CONCENTRATE HIS EFFORTS
ON BEGINNING PROCESS FOR EVENTUAL RETURN OF SCHOOL TO HOLY
CROSS CONGREGATION.
POPPER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, NATIONALIZATION, EXPULSION, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, OPPOSITION PARTIES, CHURCH SCHOOLS, NEGOTIATIONS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTIA03149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740141-1046
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740676/aaaacoab.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: STATE 113905
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORE ON HOLY CROSS FATHERS
TAGS: SOCI, CASC, SCUL, PFOR, CI, US, ST GEORGES SCHOOL, HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION, (SILVA, CARDINAL), (PLASKER, ROBERT), (CASTRO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005